

Northern Forest Canoe Trail Androscoggin River Adventure

The region surrounding the town of Errol, NH offers visitors extensive opportunities to view wildlife, play in whitewater rapids and hike to glorious views. Below you will find a sample itinerary designed to reveal a few of the many activities and experiences available to visitors here.

Note: *If you are a novice paddler and are unfamiliar with whitewater travel, consider referring to the other New Hampshire itineraries for a journey that requires less boating experience or plan to hire a local guide.*



Day 1

Begin your North Woods exploration with a hike to [Table Rock](#) in Dixville Notch and enjoy views of cliff bands, undulating mountains and the historic Balsam's Grand Resort Hotel. Table Rock is a narrow granite outcropping which measures only 10 feet across in spots and drops a hair-raising 700 feet to either side. Peregrine Falcons make their nests in the surrounding cliffs and are capable of diving into the canyon at over 200 miles per hour while hunting for prey. The trail to Table Rock passes across the 160-mile [Cohos Trail](#).

While you are in Dixville Notch, it is worth your while to stop and tour the historic displays at the [Balsams Grand Resort Hotel](#). This majestic hotel was built in 1866 in an era when visitors traveled to the region by train and horseback to enjoy its natural splendor in luxury. The Balsams is also famous for its Ballot Room where residents of the town of Dixville cast their ballots in Presidential Elections. It is the first site in the nation to report Primary voting results.

You can also have a first class lunch at the Balsams or, on your way back to the town of Errol, enjoy a tasty home-cooked burger, sandwich or seafood special at the [Log Haven Restaurant](#).

The town of Colebrook is west of Dixville Notch along Rte. 26 and has several other [shopping and dining options](#).

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Stop at [L.L. Cote](#) for camping, fishing and canoeing supplies. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from [Northern Waters Outfitters](#) where you can also hire a local guide. Guides can provide invaluable assistance as you navigate whitewater rapids, arrange shuttles and other logistics, find wildlife and learn tales of the history of the Androscoggin River. L.L. Cote and [Knot Just Logs](#) are also great sources for gifts and local products.

If you are eager to get on the water on your first day, a journey into the [Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge](#) will offer you endless rewards. Bald Eagles, Osprey, and countless species of songbirds can be observed on the waters and shorelines of this massive lake. A quiet observer may also encounter moose, black bear, bobcats and beaver. Learn more about the area's wildlife at the [Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center](#).

Rustic, riverside lodging is available at [Phillips Brook Recreation Area's](#) Errol Rapids Yurt. For those who would rather stay in town, enjoy a comfortable, well-kept room at [150 Main Street Lodging on the Androscoggin](#). Camping is also available at the [Log Haven Campground](#).

Enjoy a delicious steak, seafood special or sandwich at either the [Northern Exposure Restaurant and Black Bear Pub](#), the [Log Haven Restaurant and Lounge](#) or the [Bull Moose Restaurant and Lounge](#).

Spend the remainder of your day enjoying the town of Errol's shops and heritage sites and preparing for your paddling trip.



Day 2

On your second day, eat a hearty breakfast at the Log Haven Restaurant and Lounge or the Northern Exposure Restaurant and Black Bear Pub. Afterwards, begin your canoe trip at the Bragg's Bay landing and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail kiosk. If you are eager to run the Class III rapids below the Errol Dam and just north of Bragg's Bay, be sure to scout them first. You may also want to leave your gear at the Bragg's Bay landing and pick it up after shooting the rapids.

As you travel down river, you will pass through several more Class II rapids and stunning vistas of the river and surrounding mountains and hills. This area is known as the 13 Mile Woods and has been protected through a Forest Legacy conservation easement. While timber cutting and recreating are permitted along this pristine stretch, buildings and billboards are strictly prohibited.

If there are anglers in your group, bring along a rod or two and take advantage of the Androscoggin's prime Rainbow and Brown Trout fishing. The frothing currents oxygenate the water creating ideal feeding grounds for fish. Moose, Osprey and Bald

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Eagles can also be seen as the current carries you downstream.
[\(More fishing information\)](#)

There are many opportunities for lunch spots along this section, but the [Mollidgewock State Park](#) is a great wayside for a picnic. You can also camp here although you may want to cover more miles before stopping for the day.

The Moose Crossing and Osprey campsites lay approximately 4 miles downstream and offer primitive camping closer to the half

way point of this two-day journey. To get there you will plunge through 8-10 more sections of Class II whitewater rapids. You will also need to reserve these sites at Mollidgewock State Park.

Day 3

On Day 3 you may decide to leave the river behind and take out your boat at the Seven Islands Bridge. Within a 30 minute drive, you can learn the stories of the region's logging and recreation history at Berlin's [Northern Forest Heritage Park](#) and view the 170-foot steel [Nansen Ski Jump](#). You may also enjoy hiking the multi-use trails and taking in the fire tower's 360 degree views of the Presidential and Mahoosuc Mountain Ranges at the [Milan State Park](#).

Otherwise, you can continue your journey downstream along the Androscoggin. Although the majority of the whitewater is behind you, opportunities for wildlife viewing abound along this stretch. This is particularly true as the river widens in the Pontook Reservoir. In the early mornings and evenings, moose are often seen grazing on the river's banks and along the road sides here.

You will take out your canoe at the Pontook Reservoir Dam.

You may want to plan for a riverside picnic for lunch. You can also pick up a pizza or sandwich at the [Milan Luncheonette and Variety](#) in Milan or stop in at [Ursula's Snack Shack](#) on Route 16 north of Milan.

Lodging is available in the town of Milan at the [Dubee Our Guest Bed and Breakfast](#) or further north along Route 16 at the [Great Northern Moose Lodge](#).

